APPENDIX E

Essential Fish Habitat Information for the New York Bight Call Areas

Table 1. Species Managed by Regional Fishery Management Councils with Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the New York Bight Call Areas

Species	High EFH overlap	Low to moderate EFH overlap	Habitat type and other comments
Atlantic cod	A (D)	E,L (P)	Complex bottom habitats, important commercial species, over-fished, only in area during winter and in small numbers
Haddock	J (D)	L (P)	Sand, shell, gravel habitats, important commercial species
Ocean pout	A (D)	J (D)	Mud and sand near rocks and gravel, over-fished
Windowpane flounder	E, L (P), J,A (D)		Mud and sand, over-fished
Winter flounder	J,A (D)		Mud and sand, also on hard bottom, overfished in SNE
Yellowtail flounder	J,A (D)		Sand and mixed sand habitats, SNE stock over-fished
Silver hake (whiting)	L (P), J (D)		Sand, larvae pelagic
Red hake	L (P), J (D)		Juveniles on soft bottom, seek shelter, over-fished
Monkfish	E, L (P),	J,A (D)	Large variety of benthic habitats >50m, eggs & larvae pelagic
Little skate	J (D)	A (D)	Sand and gravel
Winter skate	J(D)	A (D)	Sand and gravel
Sea scallops	E, L (P), J,A (D)		Sand and gravel, commercial species with high economic value
Atlantic herring	J, A (P)		Migrate south from GOM/GB in winter/spring, pelagic habitats, harvested commercially
Atlantic butterfish	J (P)	E, L, A (P)	Pelagic habitats
Atlantic mackerel	J, A (P)	E, L (P)	Migratory, pelagic habitats, predatory species, harvested commercially
Atlantic surfclams	J, A (D)		Sand and gravel habitats buried in sediment, 10-65 m
Ocean quahogs	J, A (D)		In soft bottom sediments, 10-75 m
Black sea bass	J (D)		Inner shelf in spring/summer (5-50 m), aggregate over reefs/structured habitat, high site fidelity, important commercial and recreational species
Inshore longfin squid	J (P)	A (P)	Inshore in spring/summer, demersal eggs mostly observed inshore of Call Areas, important fishery resource
Scup	J, A (D)		Form loose schools over nearshore structured habitats, migrate to outer shelf in fall
Bluefish	A (P)	E, L (P)	Pelagic habitats, major predator
Spiny dogfish	A (P,D)		Pelagic and epibenthic habitats
Summer flounder	A (D)	E, L (P), J (D)	Mostly sandy habitats, over-fishing occurring, but not over-fished, important commercial and recreational fisheries

Source: Essential Fish Habitat Source Documents published as NOAA Technical Memoranda 1999-2007

J = Juveniles, A= Adults, E= Eggs, L= Larvae, P= Pelagic (in water column), D= Demersal (on bottom), SNE= southern New England, WEAs= wind energy areas, m= meters

Table 2. Highly Migratory Species with Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the New York Bight Call Areas

Species	Life Stages	Habitat
Albacore tuna	Juvs + adults	Circumpolar, epipelagic species
Bluefin tuna	Juvs + adults	45°N to equator in western Atlantic, spawn in Gulf of Mexico and Florida Straits, juveniles migrate to nursery areas Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras
Skipjack tuna	Juvs + adults	Circumpolar in tropical and warm temperate waters, epipelagic oceanic species
Yellowfin tuna	Juvs + adults	Epipelagic, oceanic species, circumpolar in tropical and temperate waters
Common thresher shark	All	Cosmopolitan in warm and temperate waters, coastal and oceanic species
Dusky shark	Juvs + adults	Open water over continental shelf 20-200 m, inshore nursery areas, over-fished
Sand tiger shark	Neonates + juveniles	Large coastal species in tropical and warm, temperate waters throughout the world, Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras, inshore nursery areas
Sandbar shark	All	Coastal species, most common 20-55 m on sand, mud, shells, and in rocky habitats, inshore nursery areas, over-fished
Shortfin mako shark	All	Oceanic species in warm and warm temperate waters in all oceans, over-fished
Tiger shark	Juvs + adults	Inhabits offshore and coastal waters in western N Atlantic to 40°N
White shark	All	Coastal and offshore waters, seasonally common in western Atlantic, sporadic, juveniles off south shore of Long Island
Blue shark	All	Common, wide-ranging species, on continental shelf in NW Atlantic in summer
Smooth dogfish	All	Common coastal species from Massachusetts to Argentina, largely demersal inshore to 200 m, YOY juveniles in estuaries in summer

Table 3. Spawning Times and Habitats for Species Managed by Regional Fishery Management Councils with Essential Fish Habitat Designations in or Near the New York Bight Call Areas

Species	Time of Year	Habitat	Comments
Summer flounder	Sept-Oct in southern New England (SNE) and Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB)	Sandy bottom	Begin spawning inshore, then over middle and outer shelf in late fall and winter
Black sea bass	April-Oct, peaks in August between Cape Hatteras and northern NJ	Mostly 20-50 m over sandy bottom and on structured habitats (eg reefs)	Strong site fidelity, large and variable home ranges
Atlantic mackerel	Mid-April to June in MAB	Open water	Migrate inshore to spawn, most spawning in shoreward half of shelf
Bluefish	Late summer in NY, peak in July	Open water	Eggs and larvae mostly over inner shelf some years, more widely distributed in other years
Yellowtail flounder	March and April off NJ and Long Island	Sand and mixed sand habitats	Most eggs collected 50-100 m on continental shelf
Windowpane flounder	Peaks in May and Sept off NJ and NY	Mud and sand bottom on inner shelf	Split spawning season
Sea scallops	Primarily in spring south of Hudson Canyon, late summer to early fall north of the canyon	Sand and gravel habitats	On sediment surface
Atlantic surfclams	May-August	10-65 m in sand and gravel habitats	Burrow into sediment
Ocean quahogs	May-Nov, most intense Aug-Nov	10-75 m in mud and sand habitats	Burrow into sediment
Longfin inshore squid	Late spring to early summer in MAB, mostly in May, eggs hatch 10-30 days	Eggs deposited in dense egg “mops” on variety of bottom habitats <50 m	Eggs caught in bottom trawls on south shore of Long Island and NJ coast inshore of Call Areas
Ocean pout	Peaks Sept-Oct	Eggs deposited in sheltered rocky areas in the Gulf of Maine	No information specific to the Mid-Atlantic area

Source: Essential Fish Habitat Source Documents published as NOAA Technical Memoranda 1999-2007